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| **Project Components and Presentation** | **Exemplary 4** | **Proficient 3** | **Developing 2** | **Emerging 1** | **No Evidence 0** |
| **Location and description**  Describe the conditions and location for the ecosystem. Explain weather, climate, physical conditions, and other characteristics that are important in this particular ecosystem. | A detailed description of the ecosystem and its location was included. Unique characteristic were explained. Pictures included as part of the visual presentation were clear, appropriate, and enhanced the viewer’s understanding. Extensive research was evident. | A description of the ecosystem and its location was included. Some characteristics were explained. Pictures included as part of the visual presentation were clear, but did not enhance the viewer’s understanding. Research was evident. | A description of the ecosystem or its location was included. Few characteristics were given or not well explained. Pictures as part of the visual presentation were not clear. Some research was evident. | A brief description of the ecosystem was included. Few characteristics were stated with no explanation and without any pictures as part of the visual presentation. Minimal research is evident. | No description of the ecosystem was included. No characteristics were presented. No pictures were included in the presentation. No research was evident. |
| **Organisms**  Name and visually present organisms in the ecosystem. The method of nutrition and trophic level of each organism is clearly labelled and explained. | A large variety of organisms were described in detail and visually presented. The method of nutrition and trophic level of each organism is clearly labelled and explained. | A variety of organisms were described and visually presented. The method of nutrition and trophic level of each organism is labelled and explained. | Some organisms were described or visually presented. The method of nutrition and trophic level of each organism is labelled or explained. | A list organisms was stated with no visual presentation. The method of nutrition and trophic level of each organism is stated but not explained. | No list of organisms in the ecosystem was included. No information about nutrition or trophic level was given. |
| **Ecosystem Connections**  Clearly shows the roles of each organism, the connections, and the movement of energy and nutrients in the food web. | Detailed information was included regarding the roles of each organism, the connections between organisms, and the movement of both energy and nutrients in the ecosystem. | Information was included regarding the roles of each organism, the connections between organisms, and the movement of energy or nutrients in the ecosystem. | Basic information was included regarding the roles of some organism, the connections between organisms, and the movement of energy or nutrients in the ecosystem. | Minimal information was included regarding the roles of organism, the connections between organisms, and the movement of energy or nutrients in the ecosystem. . | No information was included regarding the roles of organism, the connections between organisms, and the movement energy or nutrients in the ecosystem. |
| **Knowledge Gained**  It is clear during the presentation that the student has a thorough understanding of the topic by being able to answer all questions related to his or her ecosystem accurately and in his or her own words. | Student can accurately answer all questions related to facts in the presentation in his or her own words. Responses also include thoughtful personal insight. The viewer is convinced the student is an “expert” on the ecosystem. | Student can accurately answer almost all questions related to facts in the presentation in his or her own words. Responses include personal insight, which may not be thoughtful. The viewer is convinced the student knows much of the information about the ecosystem, but has not extended thinking beyond information obtained. | The student can accurately answer most questions related to facts in the presentation. Responses are not in the student’s own words and include little personal insight. | The student can accurately answer some questions related to facts in the presentation. Responses are not in the student’s own words and include little personal insight. | The student can accurately answer no questions related to facts in the presentation. |
| **Attractiveness and Organization**  All visuals and written components should be clear, neat and organized so that the viewer can easily obtain information. | All components (written and visual) have exceptionally attractive formatting and well-organized information that enhances understanding for the viewer. | Almost all components (written and visual) have attractive formatting and well-organized information. | Most components (written and visual) contain well-organized information. | Some components (written and visual) contain well-organized information. | No components (written and visual) have attractive formatting and/or well-organized information. |
| **Presentation & Accuracy**  All writing contained in the project is well-written, and grammatically correct. Everything is spelled correctly. Information included in the project/presentation is accurate | All writing in project is grammatically correct and spelled correctly. Choice of words is used in a meaningful way to enhance understanding for the viewer. All facts in project and presentation are accurate. Student introduces information that is accurate and new/interesting to the viewer. | Almost all writing in project is grammatically correct and spelled correctly. Almost all facts in project and presentation are accurate. Student introduces information that is accurate. | Most writing in project is grammatically correct and spelled correctly. Most facts in project and presentation are accurate. Student introduces information that is mostly accurate. | Some writing in project is grammatically correct and spelled correctly. Few facts in project and presentation are accurate. Student introduces some information that is accurate | No writing in project is grammatically correct and spelled correctly. No facts in project and presentation are accurate. |